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Centuries of Abuse Have Taken its Toll:

My exhibit will be on the theme of coastal pollution. Coastal pollution and climate change are very prominent issues in today's world, affecting every single person across the world in some sort of way and is a matter that cannot be stressed enough. I will touch upon several different artists such as, Mandy Barker, John Darwell, Stuart Haygarth and all the artists listed focus on coastal pollution or destruction and pollution through human activity. I will also explore some climate change conspiracy theories, especially climate skeptics and the many points they make about the climate change being a natural change, that it has happened before and that it is not caused by CO2 and the many points made under those three sub topics of climate skeptics.

I have chosen ocean and coastal pollution as my theme, is it is something that is a global problem and not many people are aware of the scale and dangers of the problem and how many things can affect and can be done to help the situation.

Land based activities and manmade products across the globe make up over 80% of the ocean's pollution. Although most people think waste 'just disappears', or it is not their concern where it goes, most waste produced by humans ends up in our oceans. This happens through, run-off from drains, sewage pipes, even after water companies have dredged the waste going through their plants, rivers, estuaries, people dumping their waste into our waters or coastline. This waste ranges from large manmade objects, plastic bags all the way to pesticides.

Oil is one of the most damaging forms of waste that enters our seas every year damaging the marine environment. The majority of people only think about this when they hear about an environmental disaster via a ship burning oil, however oil spills contribute to 12% of oil that enters the ocean each year, 36% of oil in our oceans comes from runoff waste from the cities and industry, down the drains and rivers.

Fertilizers are a huge contributor to ocean pollution and destroys areas of the coast all over the world, the worst areas affected are the Gulf of Mexico and the Baltic Sea. Fertilizers add extra nutrients to the sea water and causes eutrophication to happen, eutrophication is the flourishing of algal blooms which depletes the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water which suffocates other marine life. Sewage can also cause eutrophication and is also being constantly dumped in the oceans worldwide, with much of it being untreated. This subsequently causes more damage to the sea life but also humans, causing many diseases.

It was once thought by humans that the ocean was so large that all pollutants that were in the oceans would be diluted and dispersed to a safe level, but years of research has proved this concept as untrue and has been disregarded as the reality by many but many sceptics still believe this is a possibility. Many manmade chemicals have become so concentrated that they have entered the food chain. for example, starting from plankton all the way up to polar bears who are eating food which has contaminations reaching up to 3 billion times higher than it should be.

Humans also come contaminated from household products and also from eating contaminated seafoods and animal fats. This amount of manmade chemicals can cause

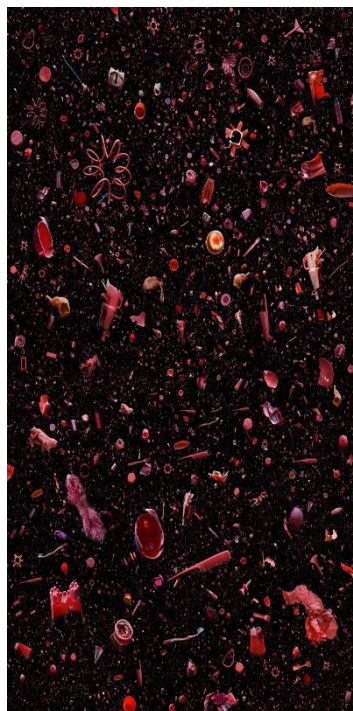
serious health problems, including cancer, damage to the immune system, behavioural problems and reduced fertility.

Plastic is one of the worst materials to enter the ocean. Plastic decomposes very slowly, with many plastic taking hundreds of thousands of years to disintegrate. High concentrations of plastic materials have been found lodged and blocking the breathing passages and stomachs of whales, dolphins, seals, puffins, turtles, and many other marine animals. Also, plastic six-pack rings for drink bottles are found choking and preventing marine life to grow and live. This waste also makes its way back to land on many coastlines across the world, where it then begins to pollute the coasts.

Mandy Barker is a British born photographer. She is recognised because of her diverse series of work which shows the detrimental marine plastic debris from across the world. Barker aims to raise awareness about plastic pollution in the world's oceans and highlighting the harmful effect this plastic has on marine life and the affects it will have on humanity. The series SOUP is one of Barker's most famous and most recognised bodies of work worldwide.

The term 'soup' is given to describe plastic debris that are suspended in the sea, most specifically the 'garbage patch' that exists in the north Pacific Ocean. Mandy wanted to create a body of work which represented a global collection of refuse that exists in our oceans throughout our lifetimes. This series of work has a hidden narrative behind it, which is quite evident when researching into the work and Barker's philosophy on this subject. Barker creates her work compiling a collection of mass amounts of plastic and rubbish from oceans and coastal debris washed up whilst travelling. Once satisfied with her find she photograph each individual object on a black background. Images are overlay to create collages with similar objects, like the ones on the left.

She creates a feeling of depth/suspension by presenting from smallest to largest items if rubbish.





'Soup: ruinous remembrance', depicting the foreseen death of marine life.

Stuart Haygarth is mainly an Artist and Designer but has used photography and been interested and produced photographic exhibitions throughout his career. Haygarth was born in Britain. His work interest me as he focuses a lot on coastal pollution and deposited rubbish on beaches which is mixed in with the seaweed and marine life. For lots of his work he explores and walks both different or sometimes the same stretch of coastline and collects the rubbish as he works and then creates a large piece of artwork with his exploration findings or displays them in a certain way and then documents them photographically and exhibits the photos

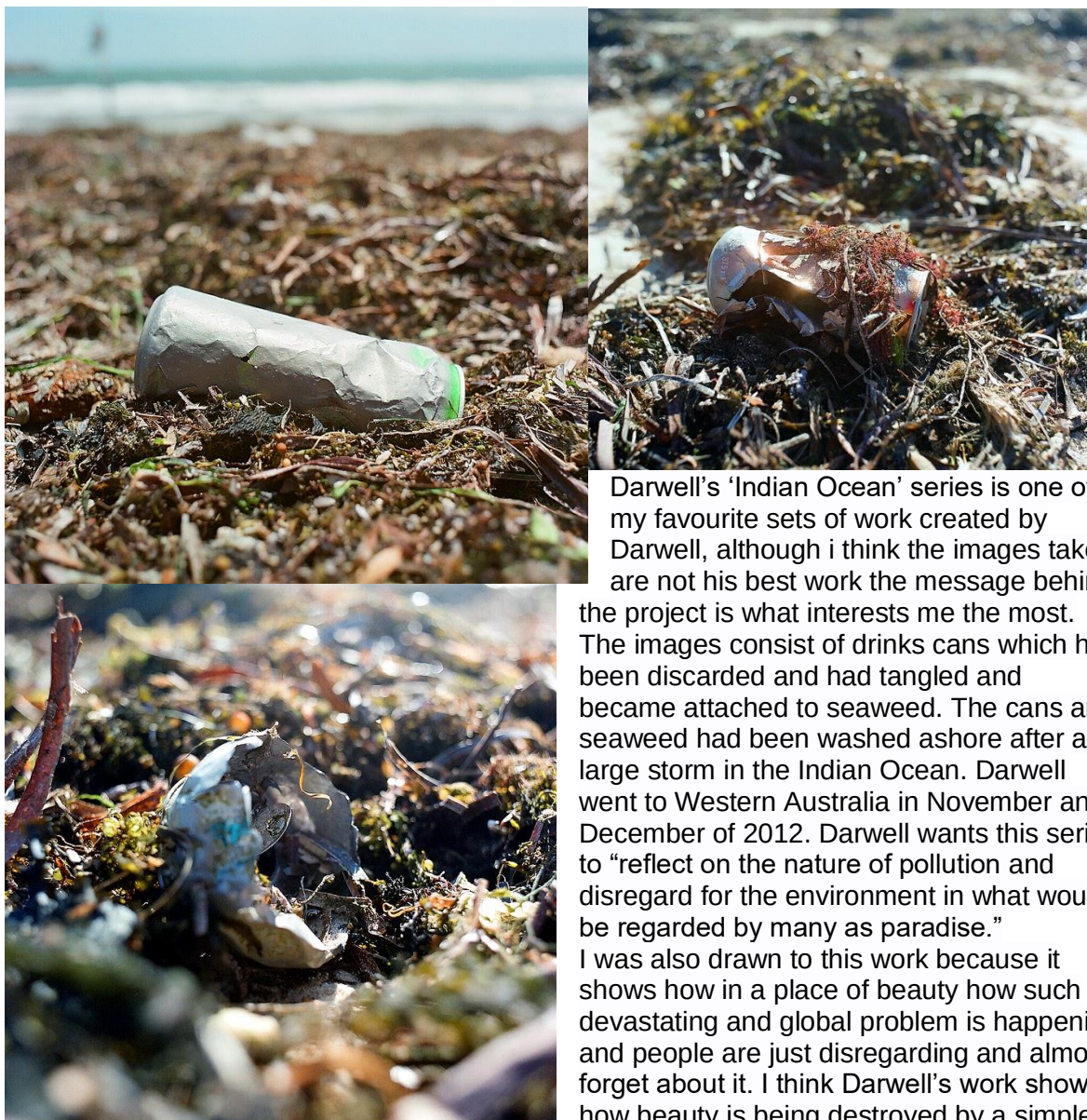


When researching imagery of Haygarth's work I was drawn to his 'Tide Mark' series. Although it is one of his oldest sets of work I personally think it's one of the most interesting, because it showcases the scale of the problem on a small stretch of coastline and how much rubbish can be found in one location over a certain period of time and the range of objects is extraordinary and

mixture of objects and colours that can be found. Haygarth walked the same path for several years collecting and making a stockpile of man-made objects found on the same stretch of coastline. Haygarth collected objects that were on the tide mark, hence the name of the series 'tide mark', that were visible in the line of seaweed, flotsam and jetsam. Haygarth was interested in the way the original colour and appearance of the objects had degrading and transformed over months or years in the hostile sea environment. Objects he found were manufactured, manmade objects which were at the end of their life cycle, broken, battered,

worn and of no use or function anymore. He sorted the objects into sets of colours and formed a 6-metre-long line of coastal litter, starting with the collection of white objects and going all the way and ending at black objects. It also illustrates the colour spectrum but one that has come from tide mark and disposed of objects by humans. Once he was satisfied with the order and the composition of the objects Haygarth photographed each colour set individually and composed them together to create a line for his exhibition piece.

John Darwell is an independent photographer from the UK. Darwell works on long-term projects that depict his personal interests. Issues around the representation of mental health, environmental issues and social and industrial change are themes of his main projects.



drink can or bottle, the amount of litter in the oceans builds up over time and is slowly destroying the coastline and marine life.

Reading lists/References

Books

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